

South/Central Arizona Investigations Program

LOCATION: Includes the Gila River Drainage Basin; the counties of Apache, Cochise, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, La Paz, Maricopa, Navajo, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, Yavapai, and Yuma in Arizona; and the counties of Hidalgo, Grant, and Catron in New Mexico.

DESCRIPTION/JUSTIFICATION: The objective of this ongoing program is to better manage existing water supplies; identify and develop future water supplies; and other resource issues. Water management and planning in areas of the State of Arizona is fragmented and beyond the current capabilities of state and local governments. Uncertainties over the adequacy of future water supplies exist in many areas due to rapid growth, conflicting Indian and non-Indian water rights claims, endangered species, and other environmental issues. Other issues include water quality, water use practices, the lack of a coordinated water service infrastructure, and Reclamation's Central Arizona Project water exchanges. Assistance is needed to integrate the planning efforts of various local entities in order to identify long-range needs and match them with available supplies.

With Federal assistance, the various municipal and Indian water providers will be brought together to cooperate on developing efficient water management strategies. Reclamation will help to identify the resource needs and constraints and attempt to identify water supply and management options available to meet these needs within the region's constraints.

AUTHORIZATION: The Reclamation Act of 1902, June 17, 1902; P.L. 102-575 - Title XVI, Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act, October 30, 1992.

SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL DATA

Program Financial Data

Activity	FY 2001	FY 2002
Water and Energy Management and Development	\$1,548,360	\$1,020,000
Fish and Wildlife Management and Development	570,948	300,000
Total Program	\$2,119,308	\$1,320,000
Prior Year Funds	(169,308)	0
Non-Federal	(1,060,000)	(635,000)
Enacted	\$890,000	\$685,000
Underfinancing	(160,000)	0
FY 2001 Rescission (P.L.106-554)	(2,000)	0
Total Reclamation Allotment	\$728,000	\$685,000

COST-SHARING:

Towns of Marana and Oro Valley, Metropolitan Domestic Water Improvement District, Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR), Pima County, and other state and local entities for the Southern Arizona Regional Study; ADWR, Arizona State Parks, Department of Game and Fish, Department of Environmental Quality, and surrounding counties, towns, and cities for the Verde River

Basin Management Study; ADWR and west side municipal Central Arizona Project water service providers for the West Salt River Valley Study; the White Mountain Apache Tribe for the White Mountain Apache-Water Resources Management Study; various local entities including Phoenix, Glendale, Scottsdale, Tempe, Tucson, and the state of Arizona for the Central Arizona Salinity Study; and Graham County in conjunction with ADWR's Arizona Water Protection Fund and the New Mexico Environment Department for the Upper Gila River Watershed Restoration Study.

WORK PROPOSED FOR FY 2002:

Water and Energy Management and Development -

Central Arizona Salinity Study - Begin to develop and negotiate a cost-sharing agreement, which will include a specific scope of work and study schedule to include phasing. Begin to develop a process to define the scope of the salinity and brine disposal problems, organize and determine existing and required new and updated data, and develop plans for required and necessary data acquisition, in cooperation with local communities, specific stakeholders, and users. The scope of work involves assisting local communities and industrial users who are removing salts from Central Arizona Project and Salt River Project waters to improve the quality of the water to meet the demands of municipal water users and industrial high tech uses. The study will examine the problems of brine disposal associated with salt removal and explore various options with the local communities and industrial users. This effort will greatly assist local communities in developing a high quality water source and environmentally sound disposal processes for desalinization waste products. (FY 2002 - FY 2006)

\$600,000

Non-Federal - Various

(300,000)

300,000

Southern Arizona Regional Water Management Study - Continues work on developing and implementing a public information and involvement process in order to select a preferred plan for integrating Central Arizona Project water, groundwater, and reclaimed effluent. Criteria used in the evaluation of alternatives will include economic, social, environmental, water quality, and cost. The next phase of the study will build public and institutional consensus and begin working on implementation of a preferred alternative, as identified in earlier work. The study involves a substantial and very difficult effort keeping coalitions of partners working together. The study over the last several years has built a consensus in concert with the goals of our partners. Information provided by the study, such as infrastructure requirements, hydrologic and geographic data systems, will assist partners to act on related local water issues, such as effluent use and Central Arizona Project reliability aspects. (FY 1997 - FY 2004)

300,000

Non-Federal - Various

(150,000)

150,000

Verde River Basin Water Management Plan - Continues program efforts tailored primarily to assist the Verde Watershed Association (VWA) and the Verde Natural Resources Conservation District (Verde NRCD). Continues efforts with the VWA in the implementation of education based and infrastructure based programs and projects. Continues efforts with the Verde NRCD that include public outreach/education programs. Continue work with both entities to maintain open forums for dialogue between stakeholders and water users and interests in development and implementation of strategies to

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address identified water resource problems, issues and needs on the Verde River Basin area.

(FY 1995 -FY 2003)	70,000
Non-Federal - Various	<u>(35,000)</u>
	35,000

West Salt River Valley Water Management Study - Completes data collection and associated analysis for Central Arizona Project and non-Colorado River water supply elements of the overall West Salt River Valley water management studies. Completes the report of alternatives for utilization of Central Arizona Project and other renewable water resources to mitigate declining groundwater levels. Completes the public involvement program associated with the study effort. (FY 1997 - FY 2002)

	50,000
Non-Federal - WESTCAPS	<u>(0)</u>
	50,000

Subtotal, Water and Energy Management and Development	\$535,000
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Fish and Wildlife Management and Development -

Upper Gila River Watershed Restoration Program - Continues activities in Arizona including consultation on demonstration project proposals/monitoring plans with Graham County and the San Carlos/Safford/Duncan Watershed Group and other stakeholders. Preparation of semi-annual study progress reports and the final geomorphology report, biological and applicable water rights investigations, continued public involvement program implementation, and coordination of study efforts with other Federal, state, and local government agencies. Continues activities in New Mexico including geomorphic analysis of the upper box area of the Gila River, completion of the catalog of historical changes, development of a geomorphic map of the river, and preparation of the geomorphic analysis, stable channel analysis, causal analysis, and stream corridor assessment reports. Continues preparation of biological and applicable water rights study objectives, and public involvement program implementation and coordination of study efforts with Federal, state, and local agencies and stakeholders.

(FY 2000 - FY 2005)	300,000
Non-Federal - Graham County	<u>(150,000)</u>
	150,000

Subtotal, Fish and Wildlife Management and Development	<u>150,000</u>
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Reclamation Request	\$685,000
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